

Tracks

Winter 2001 • Free To Hunters

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San Diego - 4949 Viewridge Avenue, 92123	(858) 467-4201

California's 2001/2002 Waterfowl Seasons

Spinning-wing Decoys:

Hunters are prohibited from using the popular motorized or electronic spinning wing duck decoys until Dec. 1. Wind powered devices or kites are still allowed as are any other motorized decoys that do not use a spinning blade or wing such as flying and landing decoys with fixed wings, decoys with flapping wings, decoys that dive, bob, swim, shake, quiver, or thrash the water.

For purposes of this regulation, such a decoy on water, on a pole, on shore or otherwise positioned to potentially attract waterfowl will be in use as a electronic/mechanical decoy unless the motor is disabled or removed, or the battery or other power source is removed or the decoy is otherwise determined to be inoperable.



Canvasback. Photo by William Grenfell.

Duck seasons by zone:

Northeast : Oct. 6, 2001- Jan. 13, 2002; EXCEPT Canvasbacks, Oct. 27 - Dec. 3, 2001
Balance of State: Oct. 13, 2001- Jan. 20, 2002; EXCEPT Canvasbacks, Dec. 14, 2001- Jan. 20, 2002
Southern California: same as Balance of State
Southern San Joaquin: same as Balance of State
Colorado River: Oct. 12, 2001- Jan. 20, 2002; EXCEPT Canvasbacks, Dec. 14, 2001- Jan. 20, 2002

Duck Limits (includes Mergansers)

Daily bag limit: 7
Daily bag limit makeup:
Up to seven mallards but no more than two females
Not more than one pintail (either sex)
Not more than one canvasback (either sex during the 38 day season - See Above)
Not more than two redheads (either sex)
Not more than 4 scaup
Not more than two Mexican ducks in the Colorado River Zone only
Possession limit: double the daily bag limit

Youth Hunt Days By Zone: See Duck, Brant and Goose Regs for limits

Northeastern Zone: Sept. 29 and 30, 2001
Balance of State, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California Zones: Jan. 26 and 27, 2002
Colorado River Zone: Jan. 26, 2002

Brant:

Season: Statewide Nov. 10 - Dec. 9, 2001
Limit: Two per day, four in possession

American Coot & Common Moorhen:

Season: Concurrent with duck season
Limit: Twenty-five per day, twenty-five in possession, either all one species or a mixture of these species

Goose Zones and Seasons

Northeastern California Zone
Other than White-fronted and cackling geese — Oct. 6, 2001- Jan. 13, 2002
White-fronted and cackling geese — Oct. 6, 2001- Nov. 18, 2002
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone — Nov. 3, 2001- Jan. 20, 2002
Balance of State Zone — Nov. 3, 2001 - Jan. 20, 2002
Southern California Zone — Oct. 20, 2001 - Jan. 20, 2002
Colorado River Zone — Oct. 15, 2001 - Jan. 20, 2002

Goose Limits in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zones

Daily bag limit: 3
Daily bag limit makeup: Up to three may be white geese; only two may be dark geese (Not more than one may be a small Canada goose, including Aleutian Canada geese, except in special closure areas.)
Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.

Goose Limits in the Southern California Zone

Daily bag limit: 5
Daily bag limit makeup: Up to three white geese; up to three dark geese (Not more than one may be a small Canada goose, including Aleutian Canada geese)
Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.

Goose Limits in the Colorado River Zone

Daily bag limit: 5
Daily bag limit makeup: Up to three white geese; up to three dark geese
Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.

Dear Tracks Letters to the Editor

Hunting Opportunities For the Disabled

Q: As a disabled sportsman, I am disappointed that our state does not have any programs specifically for disabled hunters. Other states have seasons for the disabled only, and government land (such as military facilities) that allow the disabled to hunt where game is easier to access.

It breaks my heart when I read articles about the DFG having to hire professional hunters to cull herds of animals from areas that will not support their numbers. I can't help but think about a lucky disabled hunter that missed an opportunity to harvest a magnificent tule elk from the Concord Naval Weapons Station or Grizzly Island, or a Columbian black-tail from Angel Island.

-Larry Spiteri, Richmond, CA

DFG wildlife biologist Carrie Wilson replies:

A: Actually, the DFG offers many opportunities for disabled hunters and is working to provide more. Senior wildlife biologist John Anderson, chair of the Disability Advisory Committee reviewing all of the DFG's hunting programs, says, "The DFG has made significant progress in improving access for waterfowl, dove, pheasant, deer, and fishing programs, but we're not done yet!"

If waterfowl hunting is of interest, the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area maintains two blinds with wheelchair access that are dedicated to the exclusive use by hunters with disabilities. Hunting blinds with disabled access are also available at the following areas:

Sacramento, Delevan, Merced and Salton Sea national wildlife refuges; Gray Lodge, Imperial, Mendota, Los Banos, San Jacinto, Shasta Valley, North Grasslands, Upper

Butte Basin and Yolo Bypass state wildlife areas.

The DFG's Game Bird Heritage Program offers two special hunts for hunters with disabilities: a one-day hunt in Madera County on Nov. 18, and a hunt at Birds Ltd. in Placer County. According to club owner Bernie Puderer, "Birds Ltd. offers a unique program for mobility impaired hunters. We keep this experience as natural as possible and just assist the hunters in getting to the birds." Birds Ltd. also offers dove hunts and will soon add quail hunts. For more information, call Birds Ltd. at (530) 823-9310. For the Madera hunt call (559) 243-4005 Ext. 132 or 133.

"Hunters with disabilities may apply for elk and pronghorn tags," said Jon Fischer, the DFG's elk and pronghorn program coordinator. Hunters lucky enough to be drawn for an elk tag at Grizzly Island will find that the majority of the area is fairly accessible by vehicle. As an extra bonus, DFG staff will assist all successful hunters in retrieving their animals.

The Concord Naval Weapons Station is a high security military facility, and as a result the area is closed to hunting. Excess animals are relocated by biologists to other herds.

The DFG does not use professional hunters to cull excess animals. Other state and federal agencies do, however, either because their policies do not allow hunting or because of public safety concerns. Angel Island is managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation and a state park and is, therefore, closed to hunting.

Increasing opportunities for hunters and anglers with disabilities is important to the DFG, which is currently working with Wheeling Sportsmen to provide even more opportunities for the disabled. We welcome your comments and ideas. Please contact John Anderson at (916) 653-9714 or Janderso@dfg.ca.gov with your suggestions.

Tracks

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"Moto-Ducks" Banned Until Second Half of Duck Season

The Department of Fish and Game Continues to Study Potential Impacts of Electronic Spinning Wing Decoys

Amidst continued debate, the California Fish and Game Commission decided at its August meeting to prohibit the use of electronic spinning decoys to hunt ducks until Dec. 1, 2001. The decision essentially bans "moto-ducks" during the first half of the waterfowl season, then allows them to be used during the second half of the season.

The decision, which is expected to remain in effect through the 2002/2003 waterfowl season, gives the DFG an opportunity to evaluate the potential impact of electronic decoys on the duck harvest. According to Dan Yparraguirre, senior wildlife biologist in charge of the DFG's waterfowl program, "The Commission's decision gives us the opportunity to look at the rate and species composition of the duck harvest with, and without, the use of the electronic decoys for two consecutive seasons."

The rationale for the decision was based on several components. A focused study during the 1999/2000 hunting season strongly indicated that the device improved hunting success, especially early in the season. A DFG survey of about 15,000 hunter visits at selected public hunting areas during the 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 seasons indicated that hunters who said they used the devices shot, on average, about one more duck per day than hunters who said they did not use the device.

There is also evidence that electronic decoys are affecting the mallard harvest, which normally makes up

about a quarter of California's total duck harvest. According to check station data, the number of mallards harvested early in the season has been increasing since 1997 and, according to statewide harvest estimates, has generally remained high while the total duck harvest is declining. Biologists are concerned about the disproportionately high early season mallard harvest but don't have enough data to determine whether it is related to the use of moto-ducks. Banning electronic and mechanical spinning wing decoys during the first half of the season allows biologists to compare the early season harvest to the previous two duck seasons when there were no restrictions on electronic decoys.

The Commission's ruling only bans electronic and mechanical spinning wings or spinning blades. Hunters may continue to use wind-powered spinning blades and kites, as well as



*Electronic spinning blade decoy.
Photo by Robert Waldron.*

other electronic decoys that do not use a spinning blade or wing. In addition, hunters may use their electronic spinning wings or spinning blades *as long as the batteries have been removed and/or motors are inoperable.*

The debate regarding "moto-ducks" is not likely to disappear in the near future. One western state has prohibited electronic duck decoys, and other states are evaluating their impacts on the duck harvest. The DFG will continue to acquire and analyze the best scientific information before making further recommendations.



Aleutian Canada Geese: Back From the Brink

by Melanie Adolf



A 25-year conservation effort involving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Fish and Game, other cooperating agencies, and private land owners has resulted in the recovery of the Aleutian Canada goose. The goose becomes one of only two birds listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the United States that has fully recovered.

Aleutian Canada geese historically bred throughout the Aleutian island chain and were thought to have wintered from British Columbia to northern Mexico and in Japan on the Pacific ocean side. As a result of

fur trappers introducing Arctic foxes to most of the breeding islands, the population was nearly eliminated and only a few remaining islands had nesting pairs. Geese are vulnerable to fox predation before the young birds can fly and when adult birds molt.

There were anecdotal reports of birds nesting in the thousands on several islands in the chain but by the early 1900s only a few pairs of geese were seen nesting on those same islands. In 1963, geese were discovered nesting in large numbers on a previously unknown nesting island where foxes were not present. Those birds were

marked with color leg bands and subsequently discovered staging in Crescent City and wintering in the northern San Joaquin Valley of California. In 1974 the population was estimated to be only 800 birds!

The Aleutian Canada goose was listed under the ESA in 1967 and a formal recovery plan was enacted in 1974. Key components of the recovery plan included: removal of introduced foxes from historic breeding islands, goose translocations onto fox free islands, and securing and managing key wintering areas that could support a growing population. Canada goose hunting closure areas were



Left and above: Aleutian Canada geese at Lake Earl Wildlife Area. Photos by William Grenfell.

established to protect migrating and wintering Aleutians in Alaska, Oregon, and California. The special areas, which were determined by marking studies that began in the early 1970s and continue today, are closed to the take of *all* Canada geese to minimize the incidental take of Aleutians during the hunting season.

Although Aleutians are no longer protected under the ESA, close monitoring after delisting is required by the ESA for five years. The hunting closure areas are currently planned to remain in effect until a population objective is established. The objective

will play a large role in guiding harvest regulations, and will need to be balanced between one that will provide optimum hunting opportunities and easy to understand hunting regulations, and the habitat currently available to the geese. These birds have caused significant depredation problems on the northwestern California coast. Hunting regulations were clarified and to some degree simplified this year to allow the take of Aleutians in most of the state.

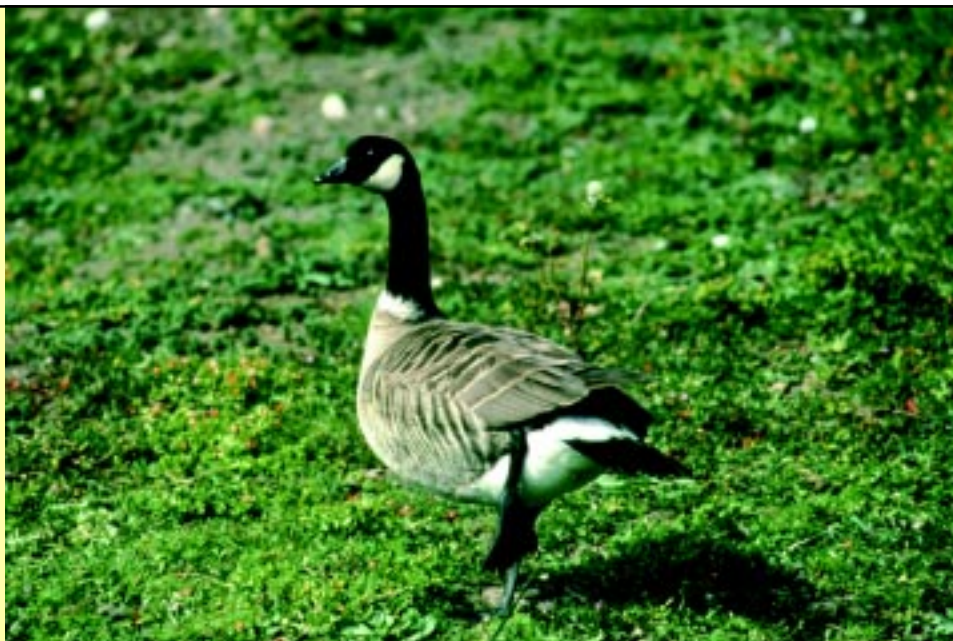
To ensure the success of the Aleutian Canada goose, continuing protection of breeding and wintering habitat as well as

securing additional wintering habitat in the San Joaquin Valley and migration habitat on the northwest coast continue to be important. Providing more habitat will reduce depredation on agricultural lands and lessen the probabilities of a large die-off from diseases such as cholera.

The best viewing of wintering Aleutian Canada geese in California occurs at the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge in the San Joaquin Valley, and the Lake Earl Wildlife Area on the northwest coast. An Aleutian Canada goose festival is held annually in Crescent City the last weekend of March.

Aleutian Canada geese resemble other small Canada goose subspecies such as the cackling, Taverner's and lesser Canada goose. The Aleutian Canada goose is intermediate in size between cackling geese and Taverner's geese.

A combination of characteristics may be used to distinguish an Aleutian from other "small" Canada geese: Nearly all Aleutians have a ring of white feathers at the base of their black neck after their first winter. Other subspecies may also have individuals with white neck rings but the ring is incomplete or narrower than the neck rings of Aleutians. The Aleutian's breast feathers have a brownish to grayish brown color. The breast feathers of cacklers are darker and have a purplish cast, while the Taverner's breast feathers are typically lighter than the Aleutian's.



Aleutian Canada Goose. Photo by Roy W. Lowe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

In a state where it's estimated that more than 95 percent of the historic wetlands have been converted to either agricultural or municipal uses, the California Waterfowl Habitat Program (CWHP) offers private landowners the economic incentive and technical assistance to manage the Central Valley's remaining wetlands to benefit wildlife. Since much of California's wetlands are privately owned, individual landowners can play a critical role in ensuring the long-term health of waterfowl populations as well as many other wetland-dependent species.

Because most of California's wetland systems have been altered through changes in

natural hydrology, the vast majority must now be actively managed to provide productive habitats for wetland wildlife. In simple terms, this means that wetland managers are responsible for mimicking wetland flooding regimes through water management; promoting beneficial vegetation that provides food, cover, and resting habitat; deterring non-native, invasive vegetation; and maintaining the infrastructure and bearing the cost of supporting these activities. This is a daunting task for any veteran refuge or wildlife area manager and his or her staff, let alone the average private landowner.

In order to assist private landowners in their wetland manage-

ment endeavors, the California Legislature passed the California Waterfowl Preservation Act in 1987. The resulting program, called the California Waterfowl Habitat Program, is run by the Department of Fish and Game. Since the program began, the DFG has enrolled 45 properties totaling 11,737 acres. With the passage of Proposition 12 in 2000, additional funds have been made available for property enrollment.

Currently, the Tulare Basin in the southern Central Valley is the highest priority for enrollment based on the region's importance to wintering waterfowl and breeding shorebirds, the loss of historic wetlands over the last century, and the high cost of

Hunting For Habitat:

water that has hindered wetland management efforts over the past three decades. Efforts are also underway or planned to enroll wetland properties in the Grassland Ecological Area, Sacramento Valley and the Suisun Marsh. The program typically pays landowners \$20 per acre annually for a 10-year contract for implementing habitat management practices in accordance with a detailed wetland management plan. However, due to the high cost of water acquisition for wetland management in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, Tulare Basin landowners will receive \$30 per acre annually for the 10-year contract.

Rest assured that any wetland landowner enrolled in the pro-

gram will spend the entire \$30 per acre on habitat management. The program begins with DFG biologists assessing wetland conditions each spring and prescribing specific habitat management actions in a written Annual Work Plan. The annual spring meeting and subsequent annual work plan provide an opportunity for the state and the landowner to discuss management objectives and to plan wetland management activities for the upcoming growing season. Annual work plans typically require landowners to implement "moist-soil management" practices such as timely spring drawdowns, spring and summer irrigations, water distribution system improvements, and pond-bottom discing as needed.

The program also integrates summer brood water and riparian habitat into plans as appropriate.

The importance of the program lies in the fact that California's wetlands have been significantly reduced, the majority of remaining wetlands are privately owned, and most wetlands require active management to provide optimal habitat for wetland wildlife. Since more than 60 percent of the waterfowl traveling down the Pacific Flyway winter in the Central Valley, it only makes sense to create a partnership between private landowners and the DFG to ensure that California's remaining wetlands can support these numbers.

Dean Kwasny is a wildlife biologist with the DFG's California Waterfowl Habitat Program. He can be reached via email at dkwasny@dfg.ca.gov.

The California Waterfowl Habitat Program

by Dean Kwasny

Upcoming Special Hunts

Wild Pig Hunting On Santa Cruz Island; Spring Turkey Hunts

The DFG is pleased to announce a public wild pig hunt opportunity on Santa Cruz Island, off the coast of Santa Barbara. As the result of a great working relationship and common goals between the DFG and The Nature Conservancy, the west end of Santa Cruz Island will host 120 wild pig hunters in March and April of 2002. This hunt begins the program to eradicate wild pigs from the island.

Successful hunters drawn from the pool of applicants will be transported to and from the island by the DFG. Hunters will have three days and two nights on the island, to hunt as pairs in their exclusive area of the island. *Hunters with special health considerations need to be aware that, because there is no medical facility on the island, there will be limited and/or delayed access to medical care.* This is a camp out experience, and no open campfires will be allowed. Hunters will be restricted to taking home only the amount of meat that may be packed into a standard (60 quart) ice chest.

Application Rules:

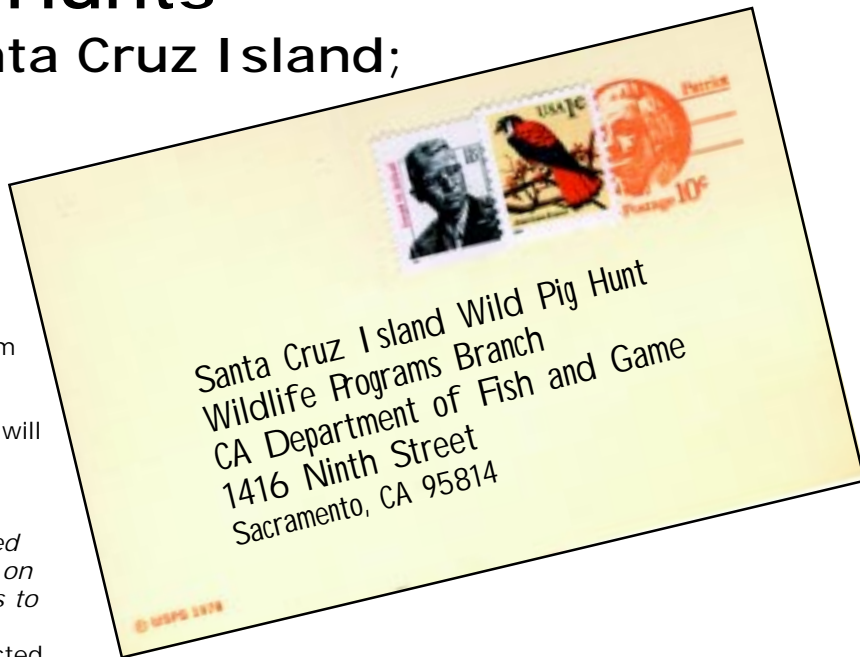
- Each hunter may apply for one hunt period only.
- Hunters may apply in groups of not more than two on one application.
- Each hunter may apply only once.
- Applications are standard postcards with both (or single) party members' names, addresses and hunting license numbers. Mail to address shown above.
- The application deadline is Jan. 31, 2002.
- The drawing will take place by Feb. 6, 2002
- Only successful applicants will be notified by Feb. 15, 2002.

Santa Cruz Island Hunt Periods:

Period	Date	No. of Hunters
1	Mar. 18-20, 2002	12
2	Mar. 20-22, 2002	12
3	Mar. 25-27, 2002	12
4	Mar. 27-29, 2002	12
5	Apr. 01-03, 2002	12
6	Apr. 03-05, 2002	12
7	Apr. 08-10, 2002	12
8	Apr. 10-12, 2002	12
9	Apr. 15-17, 2002	12
10	Apr. 17-19, 2002	12



Wild pig sow with piglets. Photo by Robert Waldron.



Spring Turkey Hunts

To apply for these hunts, call at least one month before the hunt date and request information for that hunt. Mail your application according to the rules provided.

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Yuba Co.
Mar 30, 31; Apr 3, 6, 7, 2002
(916) 358-2877

Oroville Wildlife Area, Butte County
Mar 30, 31; Apr 13, 14, 27, 28, 2002
(916) 358-2877

Spenceville Wildlife Area, Nevada & Yuba counties
Mar 30, 31; Apr 3, 6, 7, 2002
(916) 358-2877

U.C. Field Station, Browns Valley, Yuba County
Juniors Only - Apr 6, 7, 20, 21, 2002
(530) 743-5068

Lake Mendocino, Mendocino County
Juniors Only - Mar 30; Apr 20, 2002
Open - Apr 2, 5, 7, 10, 13, 17, 24, 27; May 1, 4, 2002
(707) 944-5531

Lake Sonoma, Sonoma County
Juniors Only - Nov 10, 11, 2001; Apr 6, 7, 2002
Open - Nov 17, 18, 2001; Mar 30, 31, 2002
(707) 944-5537

Millerton Lake State Recreation Area, Fresno County
Archery Only - Mar 30-May 5, 2002
(559) 243-4005 ext. 132 or 133

Tejon Ranch, Kern County
Juniors Only - Apr 13, 20, 27, 2002
Open - Apr 17, 24, 2002
(559) 243-4005 ext. 132 or 133

Ask A Biologist by Melanie Adolf and Cliff Feldheim

Q: "How will the drought and water allocation decisions in the Klamath Basin affect waterfowl?"

Melanie Adolf responds:

A: The Klamath Basin area of north-central California and south-central Oregon has been called "the greatest concentration point for waterfowl in North America." Water deliveries to the national wildlife refuges are expected to be about 25 percent of normal and the amount of wetland habitat will be reduced significantly. Increased losses of birds to botulism and avian cholera may occur with increased densities of waterfowl. When migrating waterfowl are unable to get enough food they will probably continue their migration to the Central Valley of California, so increased densities of waterfowl may occur earlier in the year there. On the slightly positive side, some areas of North America were quite dry this spring, which could result in fewer ducks migrating to the Klamath Basin from those areas.

Dry conditions in the Klamath Basin next spring may also affect waterfowl on their northward migration, as this area has been shown to be very important in spring to pintail and other waterfowl. Dry conditions could also result in decreased reproduction next year.

Q: Why has the duck hunting been so poor the last two seasons?

Cliff Feldheim responds:

A: The most common responses I get from hunters are too much flooded rice and not enough good hunting weather.

As a result of the Rice Straw Burning Reduction Act of 1991 California rice farmers need to find alternative ways to clear their fields of rice straw (the part of the rice plant that is left after harvest). Flooding had been proposed before 1991, but it wasn't as cost effective as burning. However, since 1991, flooding has become one of the most popular alternatives.

The result is a large increase in flooded habitat. Rice farmers benefit because waterfowl and shorebirds feeding and roosting in these fields help speed up the straw decay by depositing fecal matter and stomping the straw into the soil. In turn, many



Melanie Adolf received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Sacramento State University and has worked in the DFG waterfowl program since 1995.

Cliff Feldheim received his master's degree in waterfowl biology through the Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Station and Humboldt State University, and worked for the California Waterfowl Association before coming to the DFG in 1999.



wetland-dependent wildlife species benefit from the increase in flooded habitat.

Preliminary results from research conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey's Dixon Field Station suggests that, during the last 10 years, as the amount of flooded rice has increased, waterfowl may be in better physical condition, travel less frequently and for shorter durations, and may temporarily shift distribution within the Central Valley. For example, certain individuals and waterfowl species may travel less frequently from the Sacramento Valley (where most of California's rice is located) to the Suisun/Delta region and the Grasslands, and may return sooner to the Sacramento Valley. However, these shifts appear temporary and relatively insignificant in the scope of the entire duck season.

From a biologist's view, more habitat should hold more ducks and, with decent hunting weather, more ducks should increase hunter harvest. Using the public hunt area average as a harvest indicator, and Sacramento rain fall as a weather index, hunter average is highly correlated

with the amount of rain during hunting season. As most duck hunters will confirm, the last two duck seasons have been warm and dry, a recipe for lower harvest.

I will also offer up a third reason: perception. For the past few duck seasons, record fall flight and breeding populations have led to the expectation of great hunting. As we have witnessed first hand, population size may have little to do with increased hunter harvest. In addition, most hunters feel that to be successful they need to shoot a limit. While shooting a limit of ducks is one reason to go hunting, a strong argument can be made that simply getting into a marsh, and having a bird or two come into your decoys, while the eastern sky turns a mosaic of orange and red, and the air echos with the sounds of ducks and geese is really what it is all about.

While there is no single reason for the poor harvest during the last two seasons, let's just hope that this duck season the weather turns; may the air be chilled and the wind out of the north the next time you are in the marsh. Good hunting. 🦆

Ask A Warden by Lt. Liz Schwall

Does a 16-year old hunter need a duck stamp? Do you need a license to hunt on your own property? How many shells can a shotgun legally hold in California?

Q: I have a 15-year-old who will turn 16 this coming November. He has his junior license for 2001-2002. Does he need to purchase an adult license to hunt after his 16th birthday in November? If not, does he need duck stamps on his junior license after he turns 16?

A: Your son may continue to use his junior hunting license until June 30, 2002. He will not need to purchase a state duck stamp or an upland bird stamp this year, but he will need to buy a federal duck stamp if he hunts waterfowl after his 16th birthday. Additionally, even though your son will still be using a junior hunting license at the conclusion of the waterfowl season, he will not be allowed to participate in the "special" hunts that allow junior hunters to hunt waterfowl on the weekend following the close of the season.

Q: I was wondering if hunting on your own private land changes any of the rules or regulations for hunting; specifically, can you bait for pig and deer? Do you need a hunting license on your own land, and are the seasons different?

A: The same rules apply whether the land is owned by you, another private individual, or a public agency. The reason is that while you may own the land, the wildlife that resides in California is a public resource. In other words, you own the land, not the wildlife on it. Therefore, even when hunting on your own land, you would need a hunting license and abide by the season and limit laws.

Q: I have read that when duck hunting, your shotgun may not hold more than three shells. When hunting for other species (deer) with a rifle, is there a limit on the number of rounds your rifle can hold?

A: The California Fish & Game Code does require that any time a shotgun is used for hunting it must be plugged so that it can hold no more than three shells. There is, however, no similar restriction regarding rifle magazine capacities. The only requirement for taking big game with a rifle is that the ammunition be center-fire, soft-nose or expanding bullets. Be aware, however, that the California Penal Code sections that address (among other things), magazine capacities may affect the legality of your rifle. For more information on the new gun laws, contact the California Department of Justice at



Lt. Liz Schwall is the state-wide coordinator of the CalTIP program. She can be reached via email at lschwall@dfg.ca.gov.

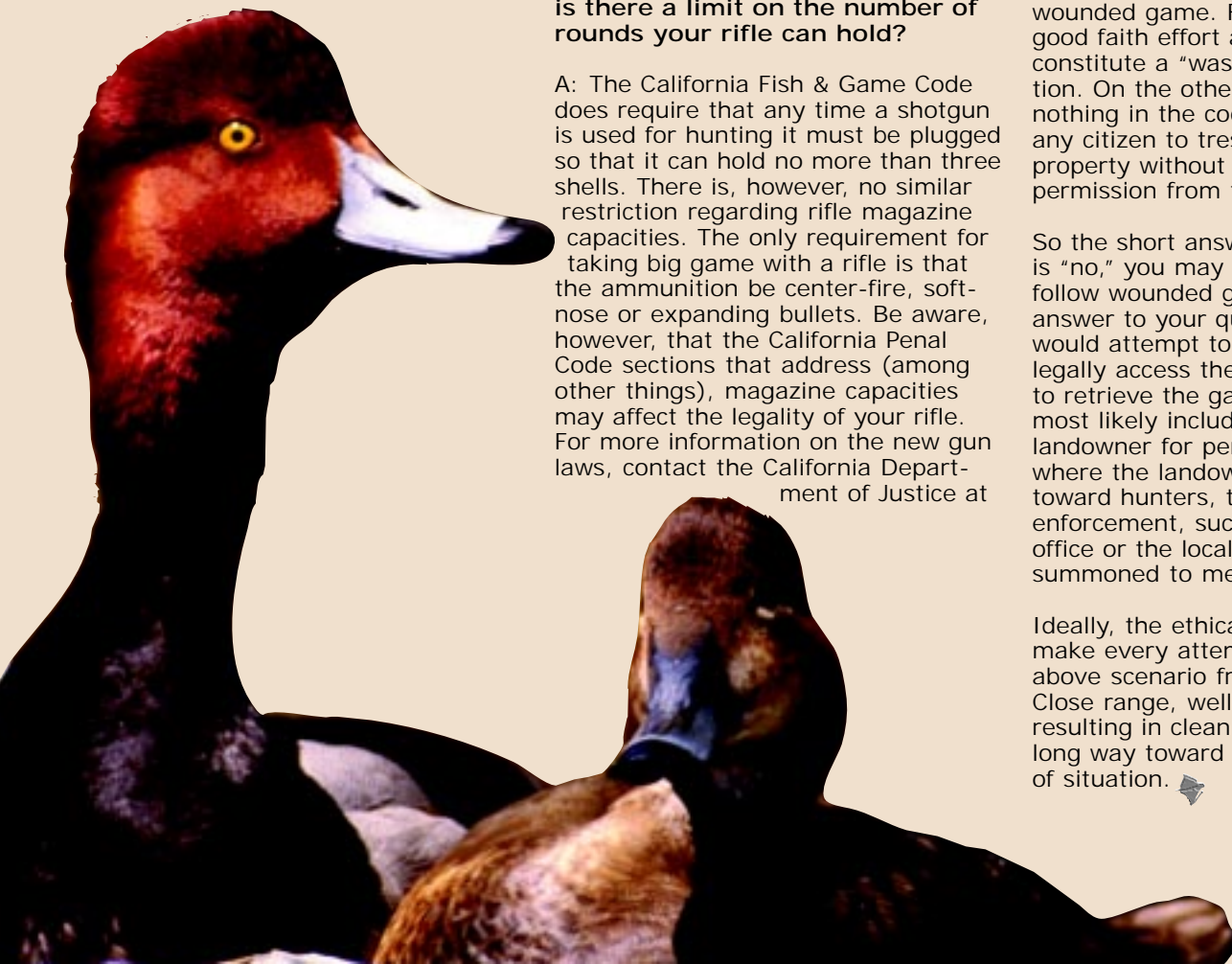
1-877-734-2486 or online at <http://caag.state.ca.us/firearms>.

Q: When pursuing wounded game, are you allowed to follow that animal onto private property?

A: The provisions of the Fish & Game Code require hunters to make reasonable efforts to retrieve wounded game. Failure to make a good faith effort at retrieval might constitute a "waste of game" violation. On the other hand, there is nothing in the code that authorizes any citizen to trespass upon private property without first obtaining permission from the landowner.

So the short answer to your question is "no," you may not trespass to follow wounded game. The practical answer to your question is that you would attempt to find a way to legally access the property in order to retrieve the game. This would most likely include contacting the landowner for permission. In cases where the landowner is hostile toward hunters, then local law enforcement, such as the sheriffs' office or the local warden should be summoned to mediate the situation.

Ideally, the ethical sportsman will make every attempt to prevent the above scenario from happening. Close range, well-placed shots resulting in clean, quick kills go a long way toward preventing this type of situation. ➡



Waterfowl Facts

Waterfowl Biology:

- The fastest duck in the Pacific Flyway is the Canvas-back which is capable of flying up to 70 mph. Most waterfowl fly at 45-60 mph.
- Swans can live up to 35 years and once they mate, retain their partner for life.

Migration:

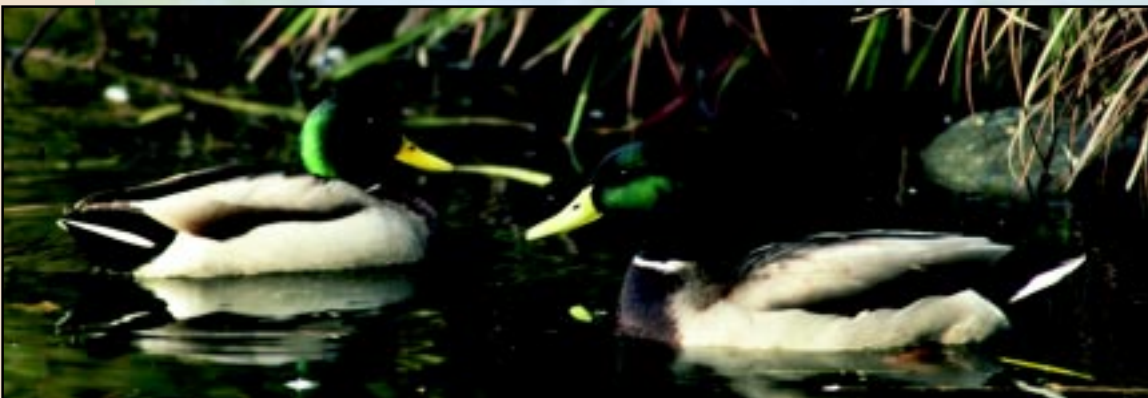
- Longest non-stop waterfowl migration is the Black Brant from Alaska to Baja, Mexico.

Hunting/Decoy:

- "Susies" were female Mallards used by market gunners and early day hunters to lure passing ducks into gun range by their calling. Some trained ducks could even be released to fly out and return (for grain of course) bringing their wild companions with them.
- Geese are very conscious of colors and false sounds, but do not seem to distinguish by size. Subsequently, they will decoy to spreads containing large "geese" that are actually shells hiding hunters inside.
- Roughly 75% of all waterfowl breed only in wetlands.
- If hen pintails lose their first nest to predators, they will renest, but usually only once. Hen mallards will attempt to nest as many as five times in a single breeding season.
- Utilizing radar, biologists have determined that waterfowl migrating at night between cloud layers maintain proper orientation despite a lack of visual ground or celestial cues.
- In bygone years when shorebirds were hunted, carvers painted decoys in both spring and fall plumage patterns depending upon the season the birds were to be used for hunting.

Habitat:

- There are 20 different types of wetlands, grouped into four categories: inland fresh areas, inland saline areas, coastal fresh areas and coastal saline areas.



Field Dressing Techniques

By Kirk Williams, CEC, CCE

Many hunters choose to dry pluck and "breast-out" their birds. Birds to be completely plucked will benefit from "blanching" and the following techniques.

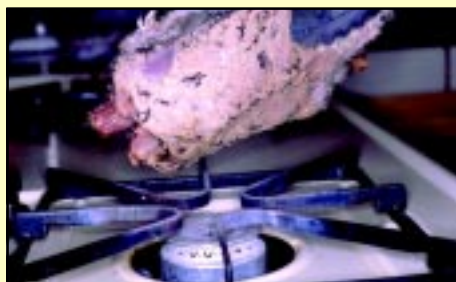
1. Blanching—Bring a large pot of water to a boil. While holding the bird by its legs, press down with tongs or a spoon to completely submerge it. Allow to blanch for one to two minutes, depending on the size. Test by pulling on a wing or tail feather. When properly blanched, feathers will remove easily and the skin will maintain its integrity while plucking.



2. Plucking—Experience teaches the fewer feathers plucked at one time, the less chance of tearing the skin. Pluck in the direction of feather growth for the best results.

3. Head, Wing and Feet Removal—

Using a sharp knife, remove the head one inch above the collarbone. Remove the wings at the first or second joint and the feet at the ankles.



4. Feather Scorching—

Using a propane torch or gas burner, scorch the remaining down or pin feathers quickly and wipe off with a clean towel.

5. Evisceration/Gutting—

Make a shallow one inch incision just above the vent. Cutting too deep may puncture the entrails. Use your finger to enlarge the whole if necessary. Using your index finger, dislodge the entrails inside the cavity by running it between the membrane and entrails

Insert a finger between the neck and collarbone. Again run the finger against the cavity, this time releasing the lungs, esophagus, and craw. Now remove the innards from the tail end in one

cluster. Sever the intestines last.



6. Rinsing—For grilling, remove the tail. Using a sharp knife, split the backbone directly down the center. Open and expose the inside and cut again through the "keel bone" (breast bone). Cook as desired.

Photos by Debra Hamilton

The Final Reward by Chef Kirk Williams, CEC, CCE



Chef Kirk Williams can be contacted via email. His address is:
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Wild Duck Pate' with Duck Liver

1 ea	Medium Sized Wild Duck	¼ cup	Shallots, minced	¼ cup	Cooked Ham, diced
3 oz	Lean Boneless Pork	1½ tbsp	Grand Marnier	1 oz	Pistachio Nuts, halved
5 oz	Pork fatback	1½ tbsp	Orange Juice	1 oz	Truffles, or Calamata
½ ea	Orange Rind, grated	½ cup	Chicken Broth		Olives diced and rinsed (optional)
½ tsp	Fresh Sage, minced	3 ea	Juniper Berries, crushed	¾ lb	Bacon or Pork Fatback sliced thinly, 1/8"
½ tsp	Fresh Tarragon, minced	½ clove	Garlic, crushed		
1½ tsp	Salt	1 pinch	Fresh Sage and Tarragon		
½ tsp	Curing Salt (optional)	¼ tsp	Orange Rind		
1 tbsp	Salad Oil	½ tsp	Black Pepper, ground		
1 tbsp	Butter	¼ lb	Duck Liver, port marinated		

Pluck and eviscerate the duck. Remove and skin the breasts and set aside. Now remove the remaining meat from the bone and remove all skin and ligaments. Cut the duck (except breasts), pork and fatback into strips. Combine with orange, herbs and salts. Refrigerate four hours.

Grind the meat twice through a fine grinder and the fat once. Sear the duck breasts in hot oil. Remove and pour off the oil. Add the butter and soften the shallots without browning. Add the liquor and juice. Reduce by ½ and then add the broth, juniper, garlic, herbs, orange rind and pepper. Reduce to a thick essence and strain over the breasts. Chill.

Dry the livers on a paper towel and dice. Add to the filling along with the ham, pistachio and truffles. Line a ceramic or glass loaf pan with the bacon or fatback. Add half the filling. Line the breasts down the center of the mold. Fold over the remaining fat and cover the top with another layer to completely seal. Cover with foil and bake in a water bath until 165° internally. Allow cooling at room temperature. Refrigerate. Serve on crackers or toasted baguette with spicy mustard.

Notes: Pork fatback is available at most grocery stores with 24 hour notice. Pate' is best when rested for several days under refrigeration before consuming.

Royal Canadian Roast Goose

1	Canada Goose, dressed	¼ cup	Dried Apricots	3 cups	Bread Crumbs
to taste	salt	2 tbsp	Parsley, chopped	1 cup	Orange Juice
1/8 cup	Dry Oregano	1 tbsp	Dry Sage	½ cup	Chili Sauce
1 cup	Celery, chopped	¼ tsp	Salt	1 tbsp	Brown Sugar
1 cup	Onion, chopped	¼ tsp	Black Pepper, ground	1 tbsp	Soy Sauce
1 clove	Garlic, minced	½ tsp	Thyme, ground	1 tsp	Dijon Mustard
1 tbsp	Olive Oil	1 ea	Bay Leaf, crushed	¼ tsp	Garlic Powder
1½ ea.	Apple, peeled, chopped	1 ea	Egg		
¼ cup	Dried Cranberries	½ cup	Apple Juice		

Season the goose inside and out with the salt and oregano. Sauté the onion, celery and garlic in the oil until tender. Transfer into a large bowl and combine the next 10 ingredients. Stir well while adding the breadcrumbs. Spoon the stuffing into the cavity. Bring the orange juice to a simmer and add the remaining ingredients. Simmer two minutes and reserve. Place the stuffed goose in a 325° oven and roast for approximately three hours or until the temperature in the thickest part of the thigh reaches an internal temperature of 160°. Brush liberally with the reserved glaze and roast an additional 20 minutes.

Note: For best results, the goose should be aged 24 to 48 hours before cooking.

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That's because hunters have funded the most successful wildlife conservation effort in history—over *\$5 billion* generated so far.

More than a half-century ago, hunters responded to the alarming decline in wildlife populations by supporting an 11 percent tax on the purchase of firearms, ammunition and archery equipment, and a 10 percent tax on handguns. Congress approved the tax in 1937 through the passage of the **Wildlife Restoration Act**. Commonly called the Pittman-Robertson Program, after its Congressional sponsors, the program gives the tax revenue directly to states for wildlife management and research programs, habitat acquisition and hunter education and training.



Thanks to the Wildlife Restoration Act, many species have been restored to healthy numbers, and their habitat will be preserved for future generations.

This message is paid for by hunters ... the original wildlife conservationists.